

United States Consulate Hermosillo, Mexico
Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Highway Protesters Enacting 24 Hour
Blockade on Highway 15 at Vicam, Sonora
June 19, 2013

Local Sonora newspapers are reporting that the president of the Yaqui River Irrigation District announced the establishment of a long-term, 24 hour blockade of Federal Highway 15 at Vicam, Sonora beginning June 19 between 2:00-3:00 PM. The demonstrators, comprised of agricultural workers and members of the Yaqui tribe, are protesting the operation of an aqueduct diverting water away from the region. The blockade will shut down the highway and impact both northbound and southbound traffic.

In light of recent events, U.S. government personnel will not be permitted to travel on the highway south of Vicam until the blockade has been lifted. The Consulate will continue to monitor the situation and will advise when the blockade has been lifted.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Mexico enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State [Department's website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings (including the Travel Warning for Mexico), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for Mexico](#). For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Consulate in Hermosillo is located at Calle Monterrey #141 and is open from 8:00AM-4:30PM (+52-1-662-289-3500). If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Consulate is +52-1-662-256-0741.